

REMARKS

Summary

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on March 10, 2005. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 17-19 have been amended.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 17-19 have been amended herein to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (US 6,713,936).

Claims 1-24 are provisionally rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/714,522 in view of Stenta (US 6,700,255).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claims 1, 6, 9, 15, and 17-19 are amended herein to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

In addition, claim 17 is amended herein into dependent form, and now depends from claim 1.

Discussion of Provisional Double Patenting Rejection Based on Application No. 10/714,522

U.S. patent application no. 10/714,522 is commonly owned by the assignee of the present invention, Minebea Co. Ltd. A Notice of Allowance was issued in connection with U.S. patent application no. 10/714,522 on January 13, 2005, and the issue fee was paid on April 1, 2005. U.S. patent application no. 10/714,522 issued as U.S. patent no. 6,891,289 on May 10, 2005.

It is assumed that the Examiner's provisional double patenting rejection will now be changed to a non-provisional rejection, since U.S. patent application no. 10/714,522 has issued.

Accordingly, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the anticipated double patenting rejection based on U.S. patent no. 6,891,289.

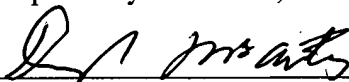
Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by and would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of Lee, taken alone or in combination with any of the other prior art of record.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicants' claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, entry of the present amendment and reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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